Corruption in awarding tenders for supply of food under mid-day meal scheme

3266. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news reports about the rampant corruption in awarding tenders for supply of food under Mid-day Meal Scheme, bad quality of food supplied etc. as has been reported about the Municipal Corporation of Delhi schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and what steps are being taken by Government to see that the Mid-day Meal Scheme is properly implemented in the schools all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) there were reports in some newspapers about corruptions awarding tenders at higher rates for supply of mid-day meals in comparison to the rates of such items being procured by the Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of NCT, Delhi. Allegations were also made on bad quality of food items. According to MCD, there is no match between terms and conditions of supplies being procured by these two agencies in terms of the requirement of calories, protein, value, mode of packaging, etc.

With regard to bad quality of food items, they have reported that the school authorities have been directed not to accept any food of poor quality. Evaluation of food items by an independent agency has also been arranged.

The Ministry has requested Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of UTs to constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary/Additional Secretary/Development Commissioner to oversee the implementation of the programme. States/UTs have also been requested to set up appropriate supervision and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that there is no misappropriation or misutilisation of foodgrains allocated for this programme.